Considering the risks associated with smart and electronic metering technology, it is prudent to give utility customers the right to choose between time-tested metering technology (analog), and the new technology ("smart" and electronic), especially when utility companies are monopolies and customers have no choice but one provider.

Smart Meter Pros (actual and alleged) +	Smart Meter Cons -	Analog Meter Pros +	Analog Meter Cons (actual and alleged) -
Fewer meter readers to employ saves utility companies money	No meter reader to regularly inspect equipment & surrounding areas (d)	Meter readers (d)	Meter readers cost utility companies to employ (d)
~~Accuracy~~ (a)	Shorter lifetime (e)	Longer lifetime (e)	~~Accuracy~~ (p)
Able to incentivize customers to shift some of their demand to off peak hours by charging higher rates during peak hours (b)	Need more installers (f)	Need fewer installers (f)	~~Obsolete~~ (o)
~~Will save utility companies & customers money~~ (c)	Cyber security issues (g)	Cyber secure / "Unhackable"	
~~More "green"~~ (p)	Fires / no surge protection (h)	Surge protected / reduced risk of fires (n)	
	Cost more just to operate (i)	No cost to operate	
	Technical obsolescence in 7-10 years (j)	No technical obsolescence - not dependent upon cyber security updates, hardware and/or software upgrades	
	Invasion of Privacy - extracts detailed personal information from the home not needed for delivering reliable utility service	Respects homeowner privacy - records total utility usage, not granulated usage data	
	Requires continuous maintenance of network communications (j)	No regular maintenance required	
	Appliance burnout from "dirty electricity" (k)	No radiofrequency radiation	
	Radiofrequency radiation (l)	No "dirty electricity" to create adverse health effects	
	Health effects of "dirty electricity" (m)	No "dirty electricity" to burnout appliances	

(a) Smart meters are calibrated using a light bulb, which some electrical and mechanical engineers consider absurd. The accuracy has been challenged on the basis that the smart meter does not handle motor and other electrical loads correctly, due to its software programming. This could explain some of the spikes customers see in their utility bills after smart meter installations, and why some customers report smart meters are recording energy usage during power outages, or when electric breakers are turned-off.
(b) There has been no empirical proof that time of use rates make a significant difference to energy consumption. Many consumers are locked in to using electricity at certain times because of their work and sleep schedules. Time of use rates increase utility profits by charging more at times of day when some need electricity the most.

(c) Only a true cost analysis will prove that statement. Ontario, Canada's auditor-general says their smart meter roll-out has brought "few benefits" and that cost savings were "overestimated": https://www.metering.com/smart-meters-canadas-auditor-says-few-benefits-from-us1-7bn-rollout/
(d) Meter readers inspect metering equipment regularly and have detected problems requiring immediate attention, perhaps saving lives and/or averting power outages in the process. More complex and fragile smart meters may well benefit from regular inspection. HB 4220 and current public utility rules allow for self-reading (post-cards, automated phone reporting, internet reporting), so meter readers are not necessary except periodically to inspect meters and collect a meter reading for reconciliation purposes.
(e) Smart meters have a lifetime of approximately 7 to 10 years. Analog meters last 20 to 50 years or longer.
(f) Since analog meters last longer than smart meters, more meter *installers* will be needed to replace smart meters at the rate of approximately 2 or more smart meters installations to 1 analog. Meter readers were already included in rate structures before smart meter roll-out. Have utility rules changed regarding this aspect of billing?
(g) Cynthia Ayers, Deputy Director, EMP Task Force, National and Homeland Defense, stated that smart meters are "digital back doors" to our homes and lives. They are easily hacked, and can reveal where people are in a building, and sometimes what they are doing. They can be used for targeted assassinations and kidnappings. Data from smart and digital meters can be incorrectly read and/or reported and erroneously used by law enforcement.
(h) Ayers also stated that with no surge protection, the more smart meters that are installed, the more fires there will be. Also, with smart meters there's less likelihood of putting out "firestorms".
(i) Smart meters *take* energy from the grid to operate, just to maintain the electronic circuitry and transmitters. Mechanical and electrical engineer William Bathgate showed how the smart meter could average $113 a year to operate, above and beyond monthly charges. Using the cellular phone network, or a mesh network, the smart meter is constantly seeking a signal, even when electric breakers are turned-off.
(j) Since smart meters are networked computers, they must be periodically upgraded due to cyber threats and technological advances in computer hardware and software. Twenty-year old computers and other electronic devices are typically obsolete.
(k) Dirty electricity (DE) has been known to wear-out appliances faster, especially those with electric motors, like furnaces, refrigerators, dishwashers and laundry machines, all "big-ticket" items.
(l) Smart meters emit non-thermal radiofrequency radiation 24/7, which the World Health Organization recognizes as a possible human carcinogen, and recommends avoiding to reduce cancer risk: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs297/en/ and https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/results/areas/cellphones/index.html
(m) All electronic electric utility meters create dirty electricity (DE) because of the switched mode power supplies used to draw power from the line. DE consists of low frequencies in the kilohertz range that travel through the wiring of a home or building, creating magnetic fields, which have been linked with multiple adverse health effects.
(n) Analog meters are surge protected, thereby reducing risk of fires.
(o) Analog meters are still in widespread use, and will continue to be manufactured as long as utility companies continue to purchase them. Utility companies refer to analog meters as "obsolete" only when they no longer want to use them, which has nothing to do with availability. In truth, "in a rapidly changing technological environment, smart meters, not analog meters, are the devices that become obsolete." Analog meters have withstood the test of time, and some have been known to last over 75 years, with little need for design change *because* they are *not electronic*. "Traditional" designs that last a lifetime do so because of superior design.
(p) The accuracy of analog meters has never been an issue or questioned until some utility companies wanted to "sell" us on smart meters. Due to the design of analog meters, accuracy has never been an issue in almost 100 years.
(q) With a shorter lifetime, smart meters are more disposable, are made with more plastic parts, emit a possible human carcinogen, increase risks of fire and hacking, invade our privacy with granulated data collection, and take more energy from the grid to operate, than analog meters. It is a misnomer to consider smart meters more "green" than analog meters.

Jeanine Susan Deal - Battle Creek, Michigan - Phone: 269-965-0461 - Email: j.s.deal@att.net

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members my name is Brock Millard. I'd like to thank you for all the time and effort that you put into serving your constituents. What you have to absorb and learn in so little time before voting on legislation is simply mind boggling. Mr. Chairman last week Representative Lasinski mentioned reading a Public Service Commission ruling in rate cases "would be stacked up higher than I am". Mr. Chairman she also mentioned not being able to determine "points of congruency" for this very reason. Mr. Chairman I believe we all feel her pain. On March 7, 2017, DTE Energy produced an article entitled "House Bill 4220 would drive up energy costs in Michigan". I tried to verify the following sentence from the article: "Over the life of the program, AMI will provide a net benefit of $81.4 million to DTE Energy Customers." This sentence was the only one with a source. That source is the cost-benefit analyses found in MPSC Case No. U-18014, February 2016. That case number includes over 10,000 pages of information. After searching for 20 minutes, I found the exact sourced information under Exhibit A-10, Schedule C5.13. All the benefits are **projected** from 12/31/15 to 12/31/17. If the article had stated **projected** savings, no one would question it. Act. 286, Public Act of 2008, sec. 6a (1) gives the utility the authority to use 12-month projections. Nothing illegal was done. But the public is being led to believe that there will be a savings, but there is no guarantee. What if it costs? The Legislature has not given the MPSC the authority to require proof or validation of a utility claim.

On February 24, 2009 DTE Energy submitted a Supplemental to Testimony by Steve Kurmas to the House Energy & Technology Committee. Under "Benefits of AMI" on page 9 of that testimony the following sentence is given: "The AMI meters will begin recording energy usage at a level that cannot even be detected by traditional electromechanical meters." If I told everyone in this room that I had a scale that would detect your weight before you stood on it, I'd get more than a few laughs. Is that not a fair analogy? Let me read that sentence again. "The AMI meters will begin recording energy usage at a level that cannot even be detected by traditional electromechanical meters." (Higher bills?)

On March 7, 2017 the Michigan Environmental Council submitted a letter to the House Energy Policy Committee. (Various Testimony -5 page 33) The following is taken from the letter: "...ratepayers were promised by utilities that we would receive over $900 million in cost savings...Those savings will only be realized if the new meters are coupled with better rate designs which encourage customers to avoid using electricity during peak demand times." (a.k.a. time of use - TOU rates, Demand response) Will ratepayers save? That question was answered in 2015.

On September 14, 2015 DTE Energy filed a report with the MPSC in regards to Case No. U-17936. The report described Strategies for Education, Outreach, Marketing, and Customer Support of TOU (Time of use) Rates and Other Pricing Options. On page 4 of that report; under Customer Benefits of TOU Rates, there is a quote I would like to read. "Typically, customers who can use more than two-thirds of their use "Off-Peak" will save on their energy bills." Is it practical for the average Michigan resident to be able to shift usage to save any money? **If the entire public was able to shift usage to "Off-Peak" wouldn't the "Off-Peak" now become Peak?** There are many reasons to error on the side of caution and allow residential customers to keep their analog meters.

)

Concerned about your constituents price increase claims after installation of a smart meter?

> There is an answer: "Inherent to the new technology, they are extremely accurate when compared to our old electromechanical meters. The AMI meters will begin recording energy usage at a rate that cannot even be detected by traditional electromechanical meters." (1)

What does that mean? First, it is not an apples to apples comparison. If so, both meters would record the same. Second AMI or smart meters are recording (detecting) usage at a much earlier rate than analog meters. Because energy usage is detected earlier, the usage data of a customer with a smart meter will show 1kwh used before a customer with an analog. This is exactly why a customer is confused and the utility stands by the claim that customer usage has increased.

An analog meter: A=B

> Where A is usage and B is customer bill

Smart meter: A+x=B

> Where A is analog plus x (early detection) and B is customers new bill.

The problem lies in trying to figure out what x is. Without a comparison of a smart meter and an analog meter hooked to the same loads, a customer is left to the mercy of the AMI technology.

Prediction: Smart meters will give the appearance of an increase in usage over analog meters wherever installed.

(1)Taken from' DTE ENERGY SMART GRID WHITE PAPER', 'Supplemental to Testimony by Steve Kurmas, President and COO, Detroit Edison before the House Energy & Technology Committee, February 24, 2009' (page 9 of document, 1st paragraph under Benefits of AMI)

https://legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/CommitteeDocuments/House/Energy%20and%20Technology/Committee%20Bill%20Record/Committee6-2-24-2009-3.pdf

Revised Comments - Energy Committee Hearing
Bill HR4220
March 14, 2017

Submitted by:
Richard Meltzer, Ph.D.

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to speak before the committee today. I am here to support Rep. Glenn's bill HR 4220.

My Background:
I am a retired Ph.D. researcher who has studied the effects of microwaves (like the RF emitted by smart meters) on brain tissue. Leveraging my proficient computer and statistical skills I later focused my career on advanced technology and data analysis and mining. I've held senior positions both in academia and in the corporate world. And I've been a management consultant and done work for the Dept. of Energy and had security clearance granting access to nuclear weapons facilities.

Lastly, I've been a participant in several cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and believe I can speak to both the biomedical and technological aspects of smart meters.

I'd like to address the issue of cost recovery as it pertains to DTE's opt-out fees. First, in MPSC case U-17053 DTE testified under oath there is no distinction between an AMI smart meter with its transmitter disabled and an analog meter. And under oath they also acknowledged there is no mandate in Michigan law that requires the AMI meter to be installed (Sitkauskas 3 T 416).

In DTE's punitive opt-out plan customers have to pay an extra charge and yet are saddled with the very meter they are trying to avoid. A smart meter still has electronic characteristics that are disruptive to electro-magnetic sensitive individuals even with the transmitter off.

Allowing a customer to retain their current analog meter actually saves the expense of the new meter as well as the labor cost to install it. Allowing homeowners to report their own meter readings – like we did years ago – perhaps qualified by credit worthiness and occasional audit and secured with a cash deposit or credit card - saves much of the meter reader cost.

DTE is quick to pass incurred expenses along to a special class of customers but when there's opportunity to have those same customers save DTE money by not requiring the cost of a new meter, DTE defers. Apparently DTE picks and chooses when to absorb various business expenses.

Also note that U-17053 established a projected customer opt-out rate of a meager two-tenths-of-one-percent (0.2%).

Many businesses in a competitive environment absorb such minor expenses as a cost of doing business - especially companies that place a high value on customer satisfaction. But DTE does not operate in a competitive environment and does not fear losing customers.

And where is the concern for DTE's added expense resulting from additional highly paid cyber security staff necessary to protect these computerized smart meters? Why should opt-outers share that cost burden? And what of the replacement cost for the considerably shorter lifespan of an AMI smart meter?

And what of apartment and condominium residents with RF sensitivities and other medical conditions who live close to a large cluster of smart meters? Turning off one transmitter of, say, 36 AMI meters will do little to alter their exposure to RF. For them, opt-out fees represent payment for a worthless service.

In a case contesting the MPSC's past opt-out decision, Judge Peter O'Connell of the Michigan Court of Appeals stated (Docket No. 317434; 317456, LC No. 00-017087)

"...the opt-outers...receive no benefit from the AMI smart meter program and must actually pay to be excluded from it, but then the opt-outer must also share in the costs of the program because of the increase to the base rate. ...I cannot discern the reason to penalize those individuals that choose not to be associated with the AMI program."

And there are others who share this view.

Here are several quotes from Attorney General Bill Schuette:
(http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/docs/17000/0408.pdf)

> "Customers will be "required to pay rates covering both the costs of the smart meter program, and...incremental costs of retaining traditional meters."
>
> "An 'opt-out' program that requires...customers...to pay an unwarranted economic penalty for doing so does not afford customers...a meaningful choice."
>
> [Utility companies'] "comments suggest they intend to effectively penalize customers who choose to opt-out..."

And in the MPSC rate case when asked if "the cost impacts associated with the AMI investment, property taxes, depreciation, et cetera, are charged across the board to all ratepayers whether or not they are opt-out customers" DTE's AMI manager answered "Yes" (Sitkauskas, 5 T 799).

And the testimony of DTE's Director of Tax Operations also confirmed this expense was shared by all ratepayers alike (M. Lewis, 6 T 1343).

Again, we see that utility companies' cost focus is quite arbitrary suggesting a self-serving and punitive motive.

So in conclusion, we turn to our legislators to provide the relief in this matter that has only been met with indifference at the MPSC despite numerous complaints and forty-nine municipal resolutions. We simply want to exercise our freedom of choice regarding the technology that is placed on our property.

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March 6, 2017

House Energy Committee Hearing – March 7, 2017
Anderson House Office Building
Room 519

Care of: Mr. Kevin Gawronski
From: Thomas & Sheila Pomaranski, Shelby Township, MI

This document is to encourage you to support HB 4220 on behalf of your constituents. It is our understanding that HB 4220 would allow utility customers the CHOICE on the type of equipment used to measure utility usage. We are strong advocates of the use of **Analog Meters** as opposed to the mandated Advanced Metering Devices.

We have deep concerns over the Advanced Metering Devices and their health implications. After recovering from a grave cancer diagnosis, we have learned much about the types of influences that can have significant health implications, including those contributing to a cancer diagnosis, which is a disturbance in cellular function.

It is well documented that *radiofrequency radiation (RF)* or *microwave radiation,* operates at levels that are harmful to the functioning of our cells. Our bodies communicate through electromagnetic and chemical signals, so the Advanced Metering Devices and where they fall on the electromagnetic spectrum matters.

It is extremely important that our homes, at a minimum, are a safe haven from any harmful devices, especially those that we HAVE NOT CHOSEN to install on our homes. For some people, the effects of these Advanced Metering Devices and the emitting radiation can be felt immediately. For others, it may show up as significant health challenges that are not so readily identifiable over time from being over-inundated with this pulsed and spiked Radiation Frequency.

Who is at risk? You are at risk, your children and grandchildren are at greater risk and the community as a whole is at risk for significant health problems in the very near future.

We are asking that you simply give your constituents a CHOICE on the metering devices installed on their homes. We need your help in preserving our rights in the state of Michigan and supporting HB 4220.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thomas and Sheila Pomaranski

Those of us who support HB 4220 - Analog Utility Meter Choice legislation, are not asking for anything new or special. We are simply asking for a continuation of a system of utility metering that has been in place for decades, literally lifetimes. A system that has withstood the test of time, that does not pose privacy or cyber security risks. A system that never posed increased risk of fires. And a system that never exposed us to a possible human carcinogen.

Smart and electronic metering will never be as safe and secure as analog meters. Analog meters represent a line of demarcation between a utility company, and a customer. A utility company has absolutely no business knowing anything beyond how much of their service I use, so they can bill me accurately.

Imagine going to a gas station to fill-up your gas tank, but being required to attach a device to your vehicle that shows, not only how fast you drive, but where you go, when you go there, and how long you stay.

Imagine your water company telling you of a spike in water usage on such-and-such a day, at such-and-such a time. That happened to me.

Consumers Energy told you that 99.5 percent of their customers have smart meters. They also told you that despite numerous notices they sent out announcing meter changes, not once did they mention the option to "opt-out".

That's like going to a pizza parlor and not seeing pancakes on the menu. How likely is it that you will order pancakes?

Analog public utility meters have withstood the test of time for privacy, fire safety, security, with no issues regarding adverse health effects. And they last twice as long, or more, than new electronic metering technology.

The truth is that some of our utility companies have not given us full disclosure regarding smart and electronic metering. If you don't know where the concept of "full disclosure" comes from, perhaps it would we wise to research it prior to voting on HB 4220. And then, please support Analog Choice, with no extra "extortion" fees. Thank you.

Jeanine Susan Deal - Battle Creek, MI

Insurance exclusions based on EMF risks

Now some major players in the insurance world are taking their own stance against the risks being posed by exposure wireless technology including "smart meters". A global insurer, Lloyd's of London, known for taking on risky policies has put in a major exclusion clause for all policy holders, to exclude coverage related to exposure to wireless devices as of February 7, 2015.

Lloyd's of London is one of the largest insurers in the world and often leads the way in protection, taking on risks that no one else will. The Electromagnetic Fields Exclusion (Exclusion 32) is a General Insurance Exclusion and is applied across the market as standard. The purpose of the exclusion is to exclude cover for illnesses caused by continuous long-term non-ionising radiation exposure i.e. through mobile phone usage.

This means that the Province (that is we, the taxpayer) will be held liable for claims from teachers and parents of children suffering biological effects from wifi in schools, from homeowners exposed to RF from mandated smart meters on homes, and from employees forced to use cell phones or exposed to wifi at work. Lawsuits in other countries have resulted in huge payments already, and it is only a matter of time before similar lawsuits are filed and won in Canada.

Potentially those who allow such devices, after having been fully informed about the dangers, could be held liable for negligence, and directors' insurance may not provide financial protection. Directors' insurance applies when people are performing their duties "in good faith". It is hard to argue they are acting "in good faith" after having been warned by true scientific experts and by a well-respected insurer. (Excerpt from letter by Sharon Noble Director, Coalition to Stop Smart Meters in British Columbia Victoria, British Columbia, Canada)

Lloyd's exclusion is basically on all of their liability insurance policies. Without reinsurance coverage all insurance policies will exclude coverage of health damaging radiation. If suits for cancer and other associated health issues occur from wireless radiation exposure there would be a catastrophic influx of claims. This is a standard liability insurance response to risk exposure from a global and universal health danger. Perhaps this could be a repeat to issues like asbestos, chemical hazards in building materials and other types of toxic exposure.

Policy exclusions very specific

From the Lloyd's of London policy: "Exclusions (starting on Page 6 of policy, Page 7 of pdf). We will not:

a) make any payment on your behalf for any claim, or
b) incur any costs and expenses, or
c) reimburse you for any loss, damage, legal expenses, fees or costs sustained by you, or
d) pay any medical expenses:

32. Electromagnetic fields (General Insurance Exclusions - Page 7 of policy): directly or indirectly arising out of, resulting from or contributed to by electromagnetic fields, electromagnetic radiation, electromagnetism, radio waves or noise."

So what does the insurance industry know that the rest of the world has not yet come to terms with?

Sources:

http://www.activistpost.com
In Pennsylvania, House Bills 393, 394, 395, 396, and Senate Bills 816, 817, 818

https://www.stopsmartmetersinpa.com
http://smartmeterharm.org
http://thephaser.com
http://www.citizensforsafetechnology.org
http://citizensforsafetechnolog
http://ehtrust.org

Utility-issued 'smart' meters explode on 5,000 homes after truck rams utility pole

Learn more: http://www.naturalnews.com/049518_smart_meters_EMF_pollution_utilities.html#ixzz3noVwPepU

(NaturalNews) Thousands of California residents were left without power recently after their so-called "smart" meters exploded due to an unexpected power surge. According to *CBS Sacramento*, more than 5,000 homes in the Stockton area were left with blackened, charred, and completely destroyed smart meters after a dump truck crashed into a nearby utility pole, pulling the static line down onto the distribution line.

When the two lines intersect, stated PG&E spokeswoman Brandi Ehlers to the media, the resultant surge causes a major overload to the system. And when smart meters are involved, this overload can cause the meters themselves to pop and literally blow up, potentially causing a fire or other property damage not typically caused by traditional analog meters.

"The top lines are considered our freeways," explained Ehlers. "The bottom lines are our distribution lines taking power directly to homes. So when the two collide, they're at different voltages and the higher voltage wins out, causing an overload."

Kevin Gawronski

From: Patrick Chase <drchase@chasechiro.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 8:15 PM
To: Kevin Gawronski
Subject: Radio Frequencies and Potential Harmful Health Effects

Hi Kevin,

I wanted to follow up with you again on the smart meter discussion,

As a chiropractor my life's work is to oversee the wellbeing of all of our patients Unfortunately the wellbeing and health of the public was not taken into account in Tuesday's hearing. I frequently ask my patients if they are aware of the utilities program to replace the analog meters with digital meters. Very few people have even heard of these devices, those that are concerned ,which I estimate is less than 5% have any knowledge that there is such a thing as a smart meter, let alone any of the numerous hazards posed. I whole heartedly agree with Mr. Glenn's concerns regarding the freedom to opt, unless the safety issues are brought to light, some future technology will come along and add an additional element of risk. Countless studies demonstrate the concern at the federal level of radio frequencies. Many scientists liken electopollution to DDT, obviously rather than a chemical poison its an electromagnetic toxin. Below are to citations on this topic, there are literally to many to list.

"The consequences of undervaluing or misjudging the biological effects of long-term, low-level exposure (to electromagnetic radiation emanating from radar, television, communications systems, microwave ovens, industrial heat-treatment systems, and many other sources) could become a critical problem for the public health, especially if genetic effects are involved.

From "Program for Control of Electromagnetic Pollution of the Environment," authored by The Electromagnetic Radiation Management Advisory Council, issued by The President's Office of Telecommunications Policy, in 1971. Keep in mind this is long before cable TV, cell phones and numerous other radio transmissions. Few people realize that the Obama administration earmarked 7 Billion dollars to replace a very safe fiber optic communication system, with a wireless system on a national scale. European countries questions the safety of these networks.

A second report from 1999 showed that:
"The FDA nominated RF radiation as a research topic of the National Toxicology Program (NTP). The FDA stated, "It is not scientifically possible to guarantee that those non-thermal levels of microwave radiation, which do not cause deleterious effects for relatively short exposure, will not cause long-term adverse health effects"

Fifteen years later, in 2014, the NTP study is still in progress" It only addresses exposure to cell phone – not to cellular antennas, Wi-Fi, or "smart" meters . The focus of the studies are on the thermal changes in human tissue, thermal changes do not occur from smart meter exposure, sleep disorders, reproductive abnormalities, as well as genetic concerns are linked to excessive radio frequency exposure.
There are many more studies I could provide as examples but I felt that these 2 stood out the most.

Respectfully

Dr. Patrick Chase

Kevin Gawronski

From: CHUCK CAROSELLI <ccaroselli@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 12:11 AM
To: Kevin Gawronski
Subject: Fw: Pass HB 4220

House Energy Committee Members;

We ask that you take this critical time to educate yourself to the overwhelming number of the peer review studies which are definitely in conflict with DTE's overall claims while clearly point out the many dangers we are exposing ourselves to as a result of implementing smart metering
technology.

I have been at both hearing, I have heard DTE and Consumers mention that approximately 99%, of its customers are completely satisfied with their smart meters. The utilities claim to have educated their customers on this new smart meter technology by listing five coming benefits. All they have to say is that there is absolutely no merit to all the Peer Review documented findings. DTE simply wants to assure customers that they are confident in the safety of their smart technology.

that everything expressed by. For this less than 1% of customer DTE will provide their version of an Opt – Out meter and clears it with the MPSC which they feel should put an end to all further questioning. For the good of us all we cannot allow that.

On Dec.13 of this year I was forced to respond to DTE's Dec. 19th Shut Off Notice. For the last 3 years, I have been doing all I can to keep my analog meter. I have two meters on my bedroom way. Do to the rooms layout my head would not be further than four feet from that wall. DTE expressed no concern that I spent two years recovering after chemo treatments in that room. I have seen test result that show the RF coming off the meters have a detrimental effect on our bodies cells. I have seen John Holeton, a retired electrical trouble shooter meter testing RF coming from smart meters and the reading totally disagree with DTE's Claims. However, being I cannot deal with having my power shut off and do not want two smart meters sending RF current into my bedroom I am forced under protest to request the Opt-Out- Meter.

You can see, I like many who have become aware of the downside to smart technology should not be on the Utilities List of satisfied customers.

We cannot allow the Utilities to dictate from their interpretation of the law that they can avoid acknowledging and allowing for our Peer Review Level Concerns.

HB 422O Begins to Protect Customers

PUBLICCITIZEN

If you have a credit card or a cell phone, (I would add, or **ELECTRICAL METER),** your legal rights likely are under assault.
Anti-consumer fine print is creeping into more and more contracts for everyday products and services.

That means regular people like you and me who have been scammed or harmed by Big Business are kept from having our day in court.

We especially need all our House Energy Committee Members under House Chair Gary Glenn to become knowledgeable of OUR PEER REVIEW LEVEL CONCERNS

I would add our Utility Companies, (DTE, & CONSUMERS) to Public Citizen's list pointing out that our rights as customer are under assault. We need all your help to Establish OUR RIGHTS as energy customers.

Thanks to all the House Energy Committee Members for your Courage and Investigative Effort it helping Protect our Rights as Customers

Chuck Caroselli

To: Michigan House Energy Committee Legislators
Re: Feb, 21, 2017 DTE Energy Testimony for Bill 4220
From: Safe Utility Meter Consumer Advocacy Groups
Date: March 13, 2017

Dear Michigan Legislators,

We are writing to you to correct grossly inaccurate information that was presented to the Michigan House Energy Committee on February 21, 2017 by DTE Energy regarding Bill H4220. DTE Energy's testimony contains a number of misrepresentations regarding smart meter consumer acceptance, safety, security, cost issues and meter operation.

1) Acceptance: Current smart meter opt-out legislation and regulatory proceedings in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Ohio, and Oklahoma; litigation in at least Maine, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Illinois; acceptance by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of at least eight discrimination complaints under the Fair Housing Act, and a class action lawsuit in Canada, demonstrate that DTE Energy's claims about smart meter acceptance in North America are false. The installation of smart meters on homes and businesses has resulted in reported health, fire, electrical, privacy, and over-billing complaints. Meters in multiple jurisdictions have been recalled due to safety issues, including fire hazards.

2) Electrical Safety: Smart meters lack basic safety features that are required for other electronic devices. Electronic meters contain fragile computerized electronic circuit boards that are prone to igniting and exploding when exposed to utility-side electrical fire risk events and outdoor weather conditions. Smart meters pose unacceptable hazards because they lack appropriate surge arrestors, and are not compatible with consumers' existing electrical systems or circuit breakers.

3) Security: As stated by William Bathgate during the Michigan hearing, and according to cyber-security experts, electronic meters pose a looming and unaddressed threat to the utility grid and public safety.
This threat was also addressed by national security threat analyst and expert witness Cynthia Ayers at your March 7, 2017, meeting. Further discussion of increased cyber-insecurity due to "smart" meters is here:
https://smartgridawareness.org/2017/03/12/expert-testimony-retain-analog-systems/

4) Cost Increases: In New York, one of the earliest states to approve electronic utility meters, rates have increased, and are among the highest in the country. None of the consumer benefits promised initially by utility companies have been

realized. Instead, several thousand utility consumers have reported health, fire, electrical problems, and privacy concerns stemming from these meters.

5) Specification of Transmissions: Utilities throughout North America and Canada have claimed that smart meters transmit radio frequency microwave signals only a few seconds or minutes per day, or transmit only when a utility truck drives by. This characterization of emissions, repeated by DTE Energy, is false. An Administrative Law Judge at the California Public Utilities Commission forced Pacific Gas & Electric company (PG&E) to admit that smart meters can transmit 10,000 to 190,000 times per day.
http://emfsafetynetwork.org/pges-big-confession/
An example of the actual pulse rate of a New York meter is shown in this two minute video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYXMlat-QoY
Meter manufacturer Itron's documents further contradict DTE Energy's representation, as verified in this document:
https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/accounts-billing/customer-care/smart-metering/itron-cellular-duty-cycle-white-paper.pdf

6: Basis of Health Safety Claims: When the deployment of electronic meters began in the mid- 2000s, decision-makers relied on claims by the utility industry that smart meters had been safe because they met Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines. It was not understood that the standards [promulgated in 1996 from 1985 data] are recognized as irrelevant and obsolete because they only offer guidance protecting against thermal injury. FCC guidelines regarding thermal exposures are not protective of the public according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Interior. Current FCC standards are 10,000 times less precautionary than non-industry expert recommendations and have been under review since 2013.

Utilities hired product defense firms with roots in the tobacco industry (Gradient and Exponent). Michigan's own Public Utilities Commission relied on the testimony of tobacco scientist Peter Valberg from Gradient to provide assurances to decision-makers that smart meters pose no health risks. Michigan's legislative document then made its way into other states' smart meter proceedings, including Hawaii. Michigan is not alone in sustaining the distorted science pipeline.

In Maine, Central Maine Power (CMP) hired William Bailey from Exponent to testify on behalf of the safety of its smart meter roll-out. In New York, the Public Service Commission recently proposed to host a "technical conference" to study the problems with electronic utility meters. New York utilities immediately hired William Bailey of Exponent to represent their interests.

7. Defenses Against Privacy Claims are Inaccurate: DTE Energy's claim that

the meters do not collect personal private information about activities in the home is contradicted by a 2010 NISTIR report: "Smart meter data raises potential surveillance possibilities posing physical, financial, and reputational risks. Because smart meters collect energy data at much shorter time intervals than in the past (in 15-minute or sub-15-minute intervals rather than once a month), the information can reveal much more detailed information about the activities within a dwelling or other premises than was available in the past. This is because smart meter data provides information about the usage patterns for individual appliances—which in turn can reveal detailed information about activities within a premise through the use of nonintrusive appliance load monitoring (NALM) techniques... For example, research shows that analyzing 15-minute interval aggregate household energy consumption data can by itself pinpoint the use of most major home appliances.... NALM techniques have many beneficial uses, including pinpointing loads for purposes of load balancing or increasing energy efficiency. However, **such detailed information about appliance use can also reveal whether a building is occupied or vacant, show residency patterns over time, and reflect intimate details of people's lives and their habits and preferences inside their homes**."
NISTIR 7628, "Guidelines for Smart Grid Cyber Security: vol. 2, Privacy and the Smart Grid," August 2010, pp 13-14. https://smartgridawareness.org/privacy-and-data-security/

8. Argument that Allowing For Opt-Out Meters Will Shift Cost Burdens to Ratepayers Having Smart Meters is Inverted: In a brief based on a smart meter pilot project that involved thousands of people and which was filed with the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control, Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen found that "Many customers do not want or cannot use the new AMI meters. Under the Company's plan, however, these customers will nonetheless be forced to subsidize the cost of the meters for the few customers who will use them."
(Brief, p.8, here: http://www.smartgridlegalnews.com/ConnAG_brief.pdf)

In comments made to the Michigan Public Service Commission, Michigan Attorney General Bill Shuette stated, "... under the utilities proposals, customers who opt-out of smart meters would be required to pay rates covering *both* the costs of the smart meter program, and the expansively defined incremental costs of retaining traditional meters." (http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/docs/17000/0408.pdf)

More information about how customers who cannot use smart meters are subsidizing the cost for those who can has been provided in Arizona by Warren Woodward (See pages 35 to 45, here:
http://docket.images.azcc.gov/ 0000175878.pdf)

9. Confronting Gross Misinformation: DTE Energy's false testimony in Michigan undermines the integrity of the legislative fact-finding process, which

should be based on review of current, accurate and independently verified information.

Several confirmed deaths have occurred due to smart meter fires. And, as noted by the National Consumer Law Foundation, Marvin Schur, a 93-year-old Michigan man, died as the result of a "limiter" device on his home's electric meter. Similar to a prepayment meter or advanced meter with remote disconnection capabilities, a "limiter" device caps the use of electricity at an individual's home. Once consumption exceeds a level set by the limiter, power is disconnected. In January 2009, a neighbor found Schur's body in his home; he froze to death after his electricity was shut off by the "limiter." On Schur's table was cash clipped to his electric bills.
https://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/energy_utility_telecom/consumer_protection_and_regulatory_issues/report_prepaid_utility.pdf

Forcing ratepayers to forgo electricity in order to protect their health leads to further dangers when they seek alternative forms of heat and light, including candles, as was outlined in the following Health Impact Assessment that was conducted in Chicago. https://skyvisionsolutions.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/health-impact-hia-of-ami.pdf

10. Phantom Customer Benefits: One of the customer benefits often touted by the utilities is that the smart meter will give their customers the needed information to manage their electricity. This is false. In Florida, most customers are not using this information nor want it, while Florida Power & Light (FP&L) has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on customer engagement programs such as "Energy Dashboard." A lot of money is being wasted by collecting, processing, storing and managing 15 minute interval readings that the customer cannot use.

Demand Response programs are not an invention of smart meters. Decades prior to smart meters utilities have offered energy efficiency programs where devices could be applied to customers air conditioners and hot water heaters to be used effectively by the utility to manage demand during peak load periods.

Informed by citizen efforts throughout the United States, Canada, and other countries, we urge the Michigan House Energy Committee to pro-actively base its decision-making on the most scientific and ethical consideration of currently available information.

We thank the Michigan House Energy Committee for its leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Nina Anderson
Scientific Alliance for Education and NoMassSmartMeters. Sheffield MA residents

voted for the first community-wide moratorium on smart meter installations in Massachusetts.

Weston Blelock is a writer, publisher and host of the Woodstock (NY) Smart Meter Forum. The latter is a monthly speakers' series on the dangers of smart meters. Our group's advocacy for a no fee/penalty meter option led to a proceeding before the New York State Public Service Commission.

Jason Boehk
Florida Coalition for Health, Against Smart Meters (CHASM)

Mary Beth Brangan, *Co-Director Ecological Options Network*
EON. Ecological Options Network, founded in 2003, is a 501 (c) (3) organization that networks with utility customers and organizations to empower policy protecting health, environment and consumer rights. We have participated as legal intervenors in formal proceedings challenging our utility's policies on 'smart' meters at the California Public Utilities Commission for years. http://www.eon3.net/5

Patricia Burke
HaltMAsmartmeters.org, Worcester Opts Out, Stop Smart Meters Mass. Advocate working in Massachusetts, where the Legislature is considering five radio-frequency related bills, including a smart meter opt out bill that prohibits discriminating against medically vulnerable residents, and a bill to study the health impacts of RF exposure.

Michele Hertz
Founder - Stop Smart Meters NY. We are party to a New York State Public Service Commission proceeding for a no-fee analog meter choice. Our members are advocating for a full investigation into the problems with electronic utility meters in the State of New York.

Marilynne Martin
Retired financial executive and CPA (NY-inactive). Led the petition at the FPSC in protest of FP&L's Non-standard Meter Rider (opt-out fees). Thirty years experience working in divisional and corporate controller roles for large global corporations such as NYNEX (now Verizon) and Estee Lauder Companies Inc.

Sandi Maurer, *Director EMF Safety Network*
EMF Safety Network was founded in 2009, and is a coalition of business and property owners, and utility customers. We provide public education on health, environmental, and safety impacts associated with electromagnetic fields (EMF) and wireless radiation and offer resources in support of public policy change. We have participated in formal proceedings on utility smart meters at the California Public Utilities Commission since 2010. www.emfsafetynetwork.org

Janet Newton, President, The EMRadiation Policy Institute
The Mission of The EMR Policy Institute is to create better cooperation between federal and state regulatory agencies with a responsibility for ERM safety policy and public health in order to mitigate unnecessary EMR exposures that may be deemed to be hazardous. In 2012 The EMRadiation Policy Institute led the effort in Vermont that resulted in its no-cost Opt-Out for radiating Smart Meters.
www.emrpolicy.org

Victoria Sievers
EMF Safety Network, Marin County Outreach Coordinator

Susan Straus and Sheila Hemphill
San Antonio Smart Meter Awareness, Texas Right To Know, Coalition for Safe Meters, SAMBA (San Antonio Making Bureaucracies Accountable), Austin Smart Meters, Texans Against Smart Meters, have been educating the public regarding health, privacy, safety, and cost issues related to smart meters. The PUCT has received numerous complaints statewide. A Dallas man died in a smart meter fire in 2015. We recently filed a new bill for an analog choice, no penalty opt out.

K. T. Weaver
Consumer protection advocate as part of SkyVision Solutions and website moderator and editor for Smart Grid Awareness. K.T. Weaver is a health physicist who was employed in the nuclear division of a leading electric utility for over 25 years. He served in various positions, including Station Health Physicist, Senior Health Physicist, corporate Health Physics Supervisor, and corporate Senior Technical Expert for Radiobiological Effects. K.T. has earned a B.S. in Engineering Physics and an M.S. in Nuclear Engineering with a specialty in radiation protection.

Eric Windheim
BA, BBEC, EMRS. Eric Windheim is the owner of Windheim EMF Solutions that provides EMF detection, measurement and exposure reduction of man made electromagnetic radiation for his clients. Windheim is a Building Biology Environmental Consultant (BBEC) and an Electromagnetic Radiation Specialist (EMRS) certified by the International Institute for Building Biology and Ecology. WIndheim is also the founder of Sacramento Smart Meter Awareness that worked with Sacramento Municipal Utility District to allow the electric utility customers to retain or have the return of the analog meter.

Warren Woodward
Independent "smart" meter researcher for the past 6 years and Intervenor in the current rate case of Arizona Public Service Company, Arizona's largest investor owned utility.

Kevin Gawronski

From: McClellan,Ed <Edward.McClellan@edwardjones.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 4:05 PM
To: undisclosed.for.privacy
Subject: YES on HB 4220

I support this bill due to four broad issues:

1. Safety (Smart meters are cheap pieces of plastic that are associated with house fires.)

2. Privacy (No utility company should have access to all the appliances in my house.)

3. Security (Hackers should not have access to the entire grid through any meter on any house.)

3. Health (My wife is EMF hypersensitive. We have letters from doctors at U of M Hospital supporting this and we've received absolutely ZERO help from our pleas to the MPSC. They are suppose to protect us but they do not!)

As our elected representatives, I urge you to protect the rights of the citizens to choose what instruments are placed on our homes.

Please vote YES!

Sincerely,

Ed McClellan
2008 Hall Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Ed McClellan, AAMS | Financial Advisor | **Edward Jones**
709 W. Ellsworth Rd, Suite 114|Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
☎: 734-995-3306| **TF:** 855-995-3306| ✉:edward.mcclellan@edwardjones.com

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www.edwardjones.com

Kevin Gawronski

From: Mary Karen McClellan <marykarenmac@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 4:45 PM
To: Kevin Gawronski
Subject: please post in reference to bill 4220

I am a 5 time triathlete. The summer of 2015 I placed first in my age group and was invited to compete in the US National Triathlon. My last triathlon was an Olympic length. It was a great honor to finish 3rd in my age group as the oldest woman in the race. I was in excellent health when a smart monitor was put on my house and my health plummeted. Please accept my testimony below in an effort to help pass legislation to give Michigan residents back the right to deny any device put on our homes that we do not want.

First and foremost what has become very clear to me is that the smart meter is really a monitor and heretofore I will refer to it a Smart Monitor (SM). The SM is a dramatic departure from an analog meter which only measures the amount of electricity used. The SM is a sophisticated networked, wireless computer with a large memory capacity. It doesn't seem hard to imagine that circuitry incompatibility issues, especially in older homes, could result in fires and health issues from replacing a simple mechanical analog meters with an advanced monitor such as a Smart Monitor.

The cost of the new meters is mostly due to their new monitoring capabilities. To think the utility companies will not use the collection of our personal data for profit is naïve. I hear my mother's voice warning me," if you are naïve enough to let the utility companies have this information and believe they will not use it, you deserve to be taken advantage of".

Today, without my permission, I have a monitor on my home with the ability to collect my personal data, whether metadata with no name attached or not, is a violation of my privacy. I do not want to be part of the internet of things. I do not want my personal data of how many people are in my home, what appliances I own, etc. to be given to the utility company. Please, give Michigan residents the choice of whether we want these monitors or not. We cannot fight giant monopolies. We need your help in the form of legislation to give us back our rights. Please vote in favor of the Utilities of Choice Bill 4220 and take the bill to the House for further discussion, education and hopefully passage.

Respectfully,
Mary Karen McClellan
2008 Hall Ave. Ann Arbor, 48104
734-995-0149

Kevin Gawronski

From: jrkyileo@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 5:04 PM
To: Kevin Gawronski
Subject: Feedback on analog vs cellular meters

I am a Michigan resident. I live in Freedom Township. I understand that the Energy Committee is working on a bill to replace house electric meters from analog to cellular. I would like to present my comments. I am very much against that replacement and here are a couple of reasons why:
1. technology changes so frequently that the cellular devices would need to be frequently replaced due to updates which would nullify and cost savings due to elimination of jobs of meter readers. (which is also a sad outcome of this)
2. I understand that the charge to the customer is based on an average of peak usage. I question the accuracy of that assumption of usage as what if it takes snapshots of use when I happen to have a surge in electric use which is not representative of every day use. There should be a better method for determining a fair usage....such as used today in the analog meters.

I want the option to be able to keep my analog meter. I also do not want to be charged for keeping something that I already have.

Please share these comments with the committee. Thank you

Janet Richards
11681 Pleasant Shore Dr
Manchester, Michigan 48158
734-428-9427

Kevin Gawronski

From:	Shannon Koenig <koenigshannon@yahoo.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:52 PM
To:	Kevin Gawronski
Subject:	testimony for HB4220 in support
Attachments:	HB 4220 testimony to energy committee shannon.docx

Dear Kevin Gawronski,

I was unable to testify either day when I came up to Lansing re: HB 4220, and someone suggested that I email my testimony to you, in the hopes that it can be included in the testimony given for this bill. I am attaching the word document.

Additionally, my mom, Sharon Koenig, had a brief statement she wanted to add. This is hers:

I am very concerned that no true UL listing was sought or obtained for these meters before they were installed on peoples' houses, and I think
it's criminal that no doctors were involved in any medical testing of the effects of these meters during their development.

I support HB 4220.

Sincerely,
Sharon Koenig
Whitmore Lake, MI

The following is the text for my testimony. I have also included it as a Word attachment.

HB 4220 by the numbers
To the members of the Michigan House Energy Committtee:
I'd like to talk numbers.
During both sessions of testimony on HB 4220, I heard Rep. Kivela express concern that his constituents would be forced to subsidize those who decided to retain their analog meters. Rep. Glenn quickly did the math and estimated that this subsidy would amount to 72 cents a year.
Compare that to the $113.15 ratepayers must pay *annually* just to run their new digital meters. By comparison, the analog meters cost less than a dime a year to run. (This figure comes from Mr. William Bathgate's test of the Itron meter, which he provided to the committee, and is based on a rate of .13 per kWh. If your constituents have higher kWh rates, they will pay even more.) While constituents might be happy to save 72 cents, they are likely to be much more *unhappy* at having to pay over $100 a year just to tell the power company how much electricity they consume.
In addition, your constituents have already paid for the billions in stimulus funds which were granted to the utilities through their federal tax dollars—approximately $450 per meter. I doubt many are aware they have done so.
The meters will permit the utilities to see what appliances are being used at what hours. Utilities were granted permission by the MPSC to charge time of day rates. These rates in some cases are expected to be as high as 4 to 8 times what ratepayers are paying now. Do the committee members honestly think anyone but the utilities are going to be happy about these rates?
Additional costs to keep in mind:
The meters are famous for causing fires. Who pays for the damages caused by these fires—the homeowner? The homeowners' insurance companies? If utilities pay legal settlements out of

court (as they have done), will they try to pass these costs along to customers? Or to shareholders? (Those of you who also serve on the Insurance committee may want to consult with industry representatives.) Remember, people who do not have smart meters can be at risk of fire if a nearby neighbor has one.

When smart meters blow out homeowners' appliances, as they do occasionally, who will pay? Who will pick up the cost for known health risks? Is this to be absorbed in our health insurance premiums, and if so, isn't that a subsidy to the utilities?

Mr. Bathgate has examined the Itron meter very thoroughly, and he has a deep understanding of how smart meters work, as well as their vulnerabilities. He explained that, using a dish satellite and an antenna picked up in a junk yard, someone could easily blow out the meter hub. The same could be done with a pellet gun. Boom: there goes the power for several blocks. Who pays for the damage and the lost productivity? Analog meter neighborhoods are not vulnerable in this way.

Unfortunately, malware can easily be spread to our homes through these networked meters. A security expert reports that !5,000 homes can be infected in less than 24 hours. As we learn of the kinds of tools that can be used to infect our appliances now that the secrets of Vault7 are being exposed, do we really want to make our communities even more vulnerable by *forcing* people to take digital meters?

Utilities claim that these meters can save people money, but an independent 2011 study done showed that only 2.3% of customers actually had lower bills. Over 30% had higher bills, some even tripled.

They also claim approximately 99% acceptance rate to these meters, but when I canvassed people in my town, the vast majority had never even heard of smart meters, and didn't realize one had already been installed on their house. Is this considered "acceptance"? Once people understood the problems, all but two had serious concerns. And one of them worked for DTE!!

A final number: $31,900. That's the amount of campaign contributions made by DTE, Consumers and Semco PACS since 2011 to Senator Mike Nofs. Do you think they might expect anything from him in return?

The more I study the *real* science that's been done one these meters, and the real-life experience reported by people who have experienced fires, blown appliances, health problems and outrageous bills, as well as bullying from utility company representatives forcing them to take meters they'd rather not have, the more I don't like what I've learned. My conclusion: you'd have to be a fool to want one of these things on your house. These so-called "smart" meters are a pretty dumb idea.

I can't tell from the current language of the bill, but I ask that the bill permit people who are buying a home to replace a smart meter of a previous owner with an analog meter if they desire.

Please pass HB 4220 as soon as possible. People in Michigan demand and deserve real meter choice.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Koenig, Northfield Township

Sources:

1. William Bathgate's presentation to the Committee and his supporting documentation. His background makes him uniquely qualified to understand and honestly explain how the meters work and why they are problematic, and I encourage members of the Committee to invite him to a private session if they want independent, expert information.
2. http://emfsafetynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Wireless-Utility-Meter-Safety-Impacts-Survey-Results-Final.pdf
3. http://mcfn.org/donor-tracking?candidate=60
4. https://aaemonline.org/pdf/AAEMEMFmedicalconditions.pdf
5. http://stopsmartmeters.org/the-sceince/

Kevin Gawronski

From: Dan Paley <dpaley@uci.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Kevin Gawronski
Cc: Rep. Tom Cochran (District 67)
Subject: EITC research

Hi Kevin,

I am writing to provide you with research that might help inform the committee's evaluation of HB 4342 (Cochran). I am the government relations person at UC Irvine's Economic Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute, directed by economist David Neumark. We seek to provide rigorous and objective research on policies designed to promote economic self-sufficiency.

Neumark's most recent research shows that state participation in the EITC increases participation in the federal EITC. Below my signature is a long list of papers from our research affiliates that show the value of the EITC to all age groups. We have researchers in your area who can provide testimony as needed.

Regards,

Dan Paley
Communications and Policy Outreach Coordinator
Economic Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute (ESSPRI)
University of California, Irvine
949-824-5320 | esspri.uci.edu


Follow ESSPRI on Twitter!

David Neumark

https://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/12/09/the-minimum-wage-aint-what-it-used-to-be/?_r=1

https://www.ntanet.org/NTJ/54/2/ntj-v54n02p281-318-using-eitc-help-poor.pdf?v=%CE%B1&r=7210322181774597

http://www.socsci.uci.edu/~dneumark/MW%20EITC%20ILRR.pdf

Sarah Bohn

http://www.ppic.org/main/blog_detail.asp?i=1788

http://inequality.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/EITC-california.pdf

https://appam.confex.com/appam/2015/webprogram/Paper13100.html

http://www.faccc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ca_poverty_measure_ppic.pdf

Marianne Bitler:

http://www.socsci.uci.edu/~mbitler/papers/Bitler-Hoynes-Kuka-4-23-13-final.pdf

Hillary Hoynes:

https://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Programs/Economics/Hoynes-Patel-0616.pdf

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272703001440

http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/tpe.20.20061905

http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/aea/aejep/2015/00000007/00000001/art00007

Gordon Dahl:

http://econweb.ucsd.edu/~gdahl/papers/children-and-EITC.pdf

https://msu.edu/~maxfiel7/20131114%20Maxfield%20EITC%20Child%20Education.pdf

Greg Duncan:

https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/files/2014/03/Duncan-Two-Policies-to-Boost-School-Readiness.pdf

http://web.stanford.edu/group/scspi/_media/pdf/pathways/winter_2011/PathwaysWinter11_Duncan.pdf

http://www.ipr.northwestern.edu/events/other-events/docs/conf08-attainment/papers/duncan.pdf

Arloc Sherman

http://www.cbpp.org/blog/eitc-even-better-for-children-than-we-thought

Arlene P McGuire
12830 Cherry
Southgate, MI 48195
Mailing Address: P O Box 134 - Allen Park, MI 48101
email: iamcguire444@yahoo.com
cell: 734-637-4744

March 7, 2017

To: Committee on Energy and Technology - Lansing, MI

RE: HB4220 - For the Record

I was forced to accept a Smart Meter because DTE shut off my electricity for 14 days and I had no other option "if I wanted to have electricity" as DTE told me they had to install this Smart Meter. It was not long after, with numerous telephone requests I made to DTE about an electrical issue due to my lights dimming frequently, they finally came out and decided to replace this new Smart Meter. Within days of DTE's visit, I had a fire in my meter box due to "arcing" which was fully documented with pictures by the Master Electrician I engaged to take care of the fire damage and replace the receptacle box and wiring. The Master Electrician indicated I needed to have DTE replace the line from the pole to the house as it was cracked and frayed; however, it took months and many more phone calls to get them to even "assess" the situation. Finally all the electricity on one side of the house went out and DTE finally came out and found they needed to replace the line from the pole to the house - surprise? They are SLOW to respond, inept in repairing, but good at collecting my monthly payment.

I since learned that "arcing" is due to four primary factors (but there are many more):

1) remote disconnect
2) bad installation
3) installing under load
4) thinner blades

There is an exceptional YouTube video explaining about arcing as well as Smart Meter fires in North America and the extreme dangers of these devices. In fact, one of the fires in the video just happened to be a Michigan resident. Please take time to visit:

Smart Meter Fires (2016): Burning meters, burning questions, shocking answers: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MfiNYzdi24*

As if a single fire isn't bad enough, there are areas in the U.S. where there have been reported electrical outages and 500 smart meters exploded in a community; not only did the homes have damages from the fires, but many had appliances damaged as well. This incident occurred in Stockton, California. Please see the referenced article attached regarding this situation. And you will find much supporting evidence on the internet as well.

In addition, now we are looking at issues with insurance coverage for Smart Meter fires as well. It seems that if the homeowner's Smart Meter box is not up-to-date, the homeowner must pay the cost for the upgrade which amounts to about $800-$1200. If the upgrade is not done, their insurance company could deny any claim and the Smart Meter fire would be the sole responsibility of the homeowner. Please see my enclosed document entitled, "Insurance Exclusions based on EMF Risks".

An analog meter NEVER would have caught fire. They are safe, well-constructed and have a long life. I want mine BACK.

I also want to state that my bill went up about 30% from my previous Senior Citizen monthly rate - from $162 per month to $232 per month - and I am rarely at home, so I find it hard to understand WHY it would increase that much. Faulty meter? System tampering? Who knows? But this is just the start of the increases we'll be seeing because the life of the Smart Meter is so short.

In closing, I have felt uneasy ever since the Smart Meter was put on my house. I could have died in this fire, lost my home. It is chilling to consider. What's worse is the horrific way DTE treated me while trying to resolve my electrical issues.

I want to have a CHOICE regarding something so dangerous - I want my analog meter back.

Sincerely,

Arlene P. McGuire

Attachments (3)

'Smart' meter fire situation continues to escalate (KSHB-TV, Kansas City)

August 30, 2016

by Take Back Your Power (www.takebackyourpower.net)

Smart Meter Fires (2016): Burning meters, burning questions, shocking answers: *IMPORTANT YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MfiNYzdi24*

By Andy Alcock, KSHB-TV | See original article
https://youtu.be/yV_cHlxKoIE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Nearly every home and business in the metro have one.

Kansas City Power & Light is at the tail end of a two and a half year project to install more than 700,000 smart meters across the metro.

It's a small part of the billions of dollars utilities have invested in smart meters across the U.S.

But there are serious concerns Waverly Galbreath experienced firsthand. The burn marks are visible on his KCMO home.

A burned-out circuit board is the only remaining part of the smart meter at Galbreath's home where the July fire started.

image: KSHB-TV

Galbreath wasn't at home when it started.

"I got a call from my neighbor and he said my house was on fire. But when I arrived, I found out the meter had exploded," he said.

A KCP&L spokeswoman said the utility is investigating the fire, but she said this type of issue in the metro is very rare.

KCP&L Vice President Chuck Caisley said in a statement to the 41 Action News Investigators, "Out of the more than 700,000 meters KCP&L has installed, we are only aware of a handful of meter malfunctions."

There are multiple smart meter makers and different models.

The company KCP&L uses has had past issues in other places.

Despite few problems in the metro, hundreds of thousands of smart meters have been recalled in the last several years across North America.

And hundreds of fires have broken out in California, Texas, Florida, Nevada, Illinois and across Canada.

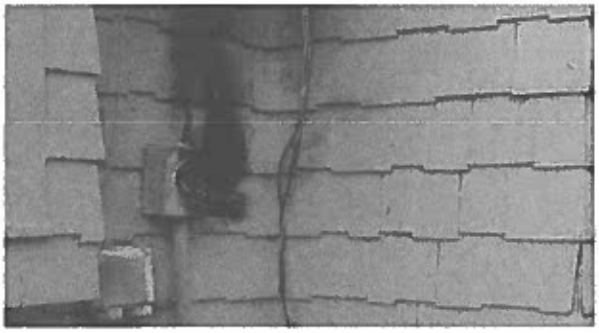

image: Waverly Galbreath

"It really is a very dangerous issue and should be treated as a real unprecedented emergency in your area," said Canadian electrician Professor Curtis Bennett.

Bennett is in an ongoing Canadian legal battle over smart meters.

Bennett sent the 41 Action News Investigators thermal images showing a dangerous smart meter connection running too hot and a normal one.

"Now you've got this plastic piece of junk on their property and that's actually what's burning inside that meter base with the wires," he said.

But Caisley said KCP&L has had a total of six problems out of more than 700,000 meters.

He said the utility has returned a couple meters which have overheated to its supplier.

California insurance adjuster Norman Lambe currently has seven open smart meter fire claims on his desk.

Of the dozens of smart meter fires he's investigated, he said overheating is the major issue.

"They are sparking, they are manufacturing too much heat," he said. "In any given situation when you have too much heat and you have material to burn, meaning unfortunately wiring in the individual's home or business, you're going to have a fire."

America's utilities are spending billions of dollars to install smart meters.

The old ones with the dials, called analog meters, only recorded electricity usage, requiring a meter reader to get the information.

Smart meters transmit your usage information to the power company.

Lambe said those transmissions can cause overheating.

Canadian Brian Thiesen has spent hundreds of hours over five years researching smart meters. He produced a video about smart meter fires. **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MfiNYzdi24**

"These fires are going to continue to happen because again, the basic laws of electricity are being violated," Thiesen said.

But KCP&L's statement said, "At this point, we have found nothing that leads us to believe there is a problem or safety issue with the new meters."

Galbreath has a different take.

He was without power for over a month after his home's smart meter fire. He said he's lucky the wood-shingled home didn't go up in flames.

When asked if other metro residents should be concerned about smart meters he said, "I think so, I really do."

KCP&L said the type of smart meters they're using have not been recalled.

The utility's statement also said the vast majority of house fires are caused by factors other than meters like outdated and overloaded wiring.

Bennett told the 41 Action News Investigators smart meter connections to old bases and faulty wiring are a serious part of the fire problem.

A spokesman for the Board of Public Utilities, BPU, said that utility has installed 70,000 smart meters in Wyandotte County.

BPU spokesman David Mehlhaff said there have been no reports of smart meter fires there.

To check on your own meter, Lambe said the best way is to feel your meter at the end of the day when it's cool outside.

He said if it's hot to the touch, call your utility company.

SMART METER FIRES: Fatalities & Liability

- ***Another 100 smart meters simultaneously explode (Capitola, CA – May 2015)***
- ***Hundreds of smart meters simultaneously explode (Stockton, CA – April 2015)***
- ***Smart meter fire kills 74-year old man in Dallas, Texas (February 2015)***
- ***Man dies in "smart" meter fire (Vacaville, CA – July 2013)***
- ***Fatal fire, smart meter suspected:"Be very aware, very vigilant" says Fire Chief (Reno, NV – Sept 2014)***
- ***Couple escapes house fire, dogs killed: smart meter blamed (Detroit, MI – October 2014)***
- ***ALL 1.2M Elster "smart" meters to be replaced in Arizona (November 2015)***
- ***SaskPower to replace 105,000 faulty "smart" meters (Saskatchewan, CAN – July 2014)***
- ***SaskPower CEO resigns following investigation into smart meter "catastrophe" (October 2014)***
- ***PGE to replace 70,000 faulty "smart" meters (Portland, OR – July 2014)***
- ***Lakeland Electric to replace over 10,000 faulty "smart" meters (Lakeland, FL – August 2014)***
- ***Are tens of thousands of defective "smart" meters being stealthily replaced in Arizona? (Sept 2014)***
- ***PECO replaces 186,000 faulty "smart" meters (Philadelphia, PA – October 2012)***
- ***News & articles on fires – Take Back Your Power***
- ***Archive of hundreds of documented "smart" meter fires – EMF Safety Network***

SEE ALSO:

Smart Meter Fires: Burning meters, burning questions, shocking answers (video): https://takebackyourpower.net/smart-meter-fires-2016-video/

About the Author

Take Back Your Power is revelatory documentary investigating so-called "smart" meters, which governments and utilities are deploying under a guise of *climate action* — without homeowners' consent or knowledge of the facts. What's at stake is in-home surveillance, systemic over-billing, home fires, health & environmental harm, extortion and hacking vulnerability. What you'll discover will shock, unsettle and ultimately empower you. www.takebackyourpower.net